

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (Currently Amended). A scale for weighing an item and determining a price for the item, comprising:

a weighing station for receiving the item, the weighing station producing at least one weight indicative signal;

a scale controller for receiving the weight indicative signal and determining the price for the item based upon the weight indicative signal;

a resident interface link including an associated display screen;

a remote interface link for providing remote access by external devices; and

a resident web server associated with the controller for serving user interface web page data to ~~one or~~ both of (1) the resident interface link for display on the display screen and (2) the remote interface link for transfer to an external device.

2 (Original). The scale of claim 1 wherein the resident interface link includes web page viewing software and the remote interface link includes communication software.

3 (Original). The scale of claim 2 wherein the remote interface link further includes one of a hardware interface port and a wireless communication unit.

4 (Original). The scale of claim 2 wherein the web page viewing software comprises a web browser.

5 (Original). The scale of claim 4 wherein the web browser is functional with the remote interface link for enabling a resident user to connect with external web servers.

6 (Currently Amended). The scale of claim 1 wherein the controller and resident web server are operable together in at least one mode to serve similar web page data to both the resident interface link and the remote interface link for enabling remote viewing of on-going scale operations in real time.

7 (Original). The scale of claim 6 wherein certain of the similar web page data is interactive when served to the resident interface link and is view only when served to the remote interface link.

8 (Currently Amended). The scale of claim 1 wherein the controller and resident web server are operable together in at least one mode to serve first web page data to the resident interface link and second web page data to the remote interface link.

9 (Currently Amended).        The scale of claim 1 wherein the controller includes login control software accessed through the resident web server for limiting web page data served to the resident interface link and the remote interface link.

10 (Original).        The scale of claim 9 wherein the login control software includes at least a first level login for basic scale operations and a second level login for performing monitoring functions.

11 (Original).        The scale of claim 9 wherein the login control software includes at least a first level login for basic scale operations and a second level login for performing service functions.

12 (Original).        The scale of claim 9 wherein a given user's login level is established according to entered login information of the user.

13 (Original).        The scale of claim 1 wherein the user interface web page data comprises one or more of HTML, Javascript, ASP, and Java Applets.

14 (Currently Amended).        A scale for weighing an item and determining a price for the item, comprising:

      a weighing station for receiving the item, the weighing station producing at least one weight indicative signal;

      a scale controller for receiving the weight indicative signal and determining the price for the item based upon the weight indicative signal;

      a remote interface link for providing remote access by one or more remote devices; and

      a resident web server associated with the controller for serving user interface web page data to the remote interface link for transfer to an external device, including web page data for establishing a link enabling control of one or more functions of the scale.

15 (Original).        The scale of claim 14 wherein the remote interface link includes associated communication software.

16 (Currently Amended).        The scale of claim 14 wherein the controller includes login control software accessed through the resident web server for controlling web page data served to the remote interface link.

17 (Original).        The scale of claim 16 wherein the login control software includes at least a first level login and a second level login.

18 (Currently Amended). A system for use in weighing items and determining prices for weighed items, comprising:

a scale according to claim 14;

a store computer network, the remote interface link of the scale connected to the store computer network, the store computer network including at least one computer connected thereto and having a web browser associated therewith;

wherein the computer web browser connects to the scale resident web server by pointing to a network address assigned to the scale resident web server.

19 (Original). The system of claim 18, further comprising:

an Internet access gateway associated with the store computer network for enabling the scale to be accessed by web browsers over the Internet.

20 (Currently Amended). The system of claim 18 wherein the scale further includes a resident interface link including web page viewing software and an associated display screen, and wherein the controller and resident web server are operable together in at least one mode to serve similar web page data to both the resident interface link and the remote interface link for enabling remote viewing of on-going scale operations in real time.

21 (Original). The system of claim 20 wherein certain of the similar web page data is interactive when served to the resident interface link and is view only when served to the remote interface link.

22 (Original). A system for use in weighing items and determining a price for weighed items, comprising:

a plurality of scales according to claim 14;

a store computer network, the remote interface link of a multiplicity of the scales connected to the store computer network via their respective remote interface links, the store computer network including at least one computer connected thereto and having a web browser associated therewith;

each of the multiplicity of scales including a respective network address assigned thereto;

wherein the computer web browser connects to a given one of the multiplicity of scales by pointing the computer web browser to the assigned network addresses of the given one of the multiplicity of scales.

23 (Currently Amended). A method for interfacing users of a scale both at the scale and remotely, the scale operable for weighing and determining prices of items, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the scale with a weigh station and a control for determining a price of an item based upon item weight;

providing in the scale a web server;

providing in the scale a resident interface display screen;

providing in the scale a remote interface link;

serving user interface web page data from the web server for display on the resident interface display screen; and

serving user interface web page data to the remote interface link for transfer to a remote device.

24 (Currently Amended). A method for remotely assisting a scale operator in troubleshooting a certain scale configured to weigh and determine a price for items, the scale including a resident web server and an associated remote interface link connected to a network and a resident interface display, the method comprising the steps of:

communicating with the scale operator;

identifying a network address associated with the certain scale;

remotely connecting to the scale using a web browser by pointing to the identified network address;

receiving an interactive login web page served by the resident web server of from the scale; and

logging in to the scale via the remote connection; and

after logging in, observing operator actions on the scale by receiving web page  
data similar to that displayed on the resident interface display of the scale in order to identify  
possible operator procedural errors and scale malfunctions.

25 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

interactively accessing an advanced mode login page; and

logging in to the advance mode of the scale

in the case of observing an operator procedural error, advising the operator of  
both the operator procedural error and of a proper procedure.

26 (Currently Amended).            The method of claim 25 ~~wherein the advanced mode enables access to a at least one web page for further comprising the step of:~~  
in the case of observing a scale malfunction, receiving an interactive web page from the scale and using the interactive web page for adjusting one or more scale settings.

27 (Currently Amended).            The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 26 wherein the scale is connected to an associated wrapper mechanism, ~~and the advanced mode and the interactive web page enables access to at least one web page for adjusting adjustment of~~ at least one wrapper setting.

28 (Canceled).

29 (Currently Amended).            The method of ~~claim 28~~ claim 24 wherein certain of the similar web page data is interactive ~~when served to as displayed on~~ the resident interface display link and is view only when served to the remote interface link.

30 (Original).            The method of claim 24 wherein the communicating step involves one of receiving an electronic communication from the scale operator and receiving a telephone call from the scale operator.

31 (Currently Amended).            A method for monitoring operations of a certain scale configured to weigh and determine a price for items, the scale including a resident web server and an associated remote interface link connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a network address associated with the certain scale;  
remotely connecting to the scale using a web browser by pointing to the identified network address;  
receiving at least one interactive login web page served by the resident web server of from the scale;  
logging in to the scale via the remote connection; and  
receiving automatically provided web page data via the remote connection, the web page data being updated in real time to reflect on-going operations of the scale.

32 (Original):            The method of claim 31 wherein the scale further includes a resident interface link, the scale serving similar web page data to the resident interface link and the remote interface link during monitoring.

33 (Original). The method of claim 32 wherein at least some of the similar web page data is served to the resident interface link in an interactive format and to the remote interface link in a view only format.

34 (New). A scale for weighing an item and determining a price for the item, comprising:  
a weighing station for receiving the item, the weighing station producing at least one weight indicative signal;

a scale controller for receiving the weight indicative signal and determining the price for the item based upon the weight indicative signal;  
a resident interface link including an associated display screen and a web browser;  
a resident web server associated with the controller;  
wherein during a start-up operation of the scale a user interface presented on the display screen is produced as a result of user interface web page data served by the resident web server to the web browser.

35 (New). The scale of claim 34 wherein during the start-up operation the web browser automatically requests a certain web page from the resident web server in order to produce the user interface.

36 (New). The scale of claim 35 wherein user interface web page data associated with the certain web page includes an applet that is loaded into the web browser and that makes a connection with a session manager associated with the controller.

37 (New). The scale of claim 34 further including a remote interface link, wherein the resident web server operates to serve user interface web page data to the remote interface link when a request is made via the remote interface link.